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PETITION RULE PRM-35-1 (44FR 26817)

THE SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE

475 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 • TEL. 212 889-0717

24 May 79

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Secretary of the Commission
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Docketing and Service Branch

Gentlemen:

This is in support of the petition [Docket No. PRM-35-1] of Professor George V. Taplin, M.D. that the USNRC rescind its stipulation so as not to recommend a radiodrug be used strictly in accord with the manufacturers' package insert.

In my opinion, no manufacturer of a radiodrug will wish to stifle initiative and innovation in applications of its product for the benefit of a patient in the best judgment of his physician, who is licensed to practice medicine in any state.

Especially would this be unlikely in the case of Professor Taplin, who was the medical scientist who originated the use of "inside-out" imaging of the human lung, in 1963. Since then, his method has become applied by thousands of physicians worldwide to aid them in the diagnostic process in many tens of thousands of patients. Such overwhelming acceptance of his leadership should continue to be rewarded. Of paramount concern is that the ^{99m}Tc-DTPA aerosol system developed by Professor Taplin manifestly is superior insofar as it greatly reduces exposures to radiation.

Enclosed is a copy of my 25-Feb-66 letter which indicated my high regard for Professor Taplin as a highly competent physician in the development of applications of "The Peaceful Atom" in the service of Medicine. Since then, I have been elected Historian of the 10,000-member Society of Nuclear Medicine. In this position, I sense that Professor Taplin has the complete confidence of the nuclear medicine community.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. G. Myers, M.D.

William G. Myers, PhD, MD
Research Professor of Nuclear Medicine
The Ohio State University Hospital
410 W. 10th Ave, Columbus OH 43210

Acknowledged by card 6/11

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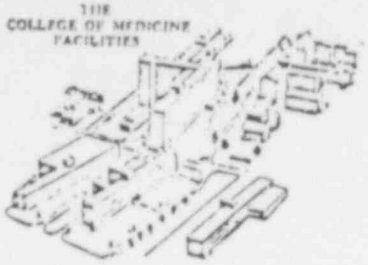

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS

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410 WEST 10TH AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43210

25 Feb 66

Doctor O. R. Lunt
Acting Chairman and Director
Laboratory of Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Biology
University of California, Los Angeles
900 Veteran Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90024

Dear Doctor Lunt:

To respond to your kind invitation in your 14 Jan 66 letter re Doctor George V. Taplin is easy for me because it furnishes a pleasant opportunity to support the academic advancement of a remarkably fine colleague. I am assuming Step V in the Professorial and Research Series ranks at the University of California, for which Doctor Taplin is eligible, is the highest Professorial Rank at your institution.

Briefly stated, my "evaluation of the significance and impact of Dr. Taplin's past and current research" is that "Tappy is Tops." In respect to his work, the reprints and bibliography of Dr. Taplin's publications that you sent me, causes me to invoke the Latin phrase, res ipsa loquitur. He possesses an afflatus which drives him to being a prodigious and fruitful worker of the highest competence. A keen insight is the most precious attribute of any investigator and Doctor Taplin's truly exceptional intuition and imagination are admired greatly by all "Nuclear Medicine Men," and they are the envy of all of us who are less richly endowed.

As you know, Doctor Taplin is so soft-spoken that his presentations of his work might appear to the casual or disinterested listener to be something less than inspiring. But I have observed that this attribute is too his advantage. For his piercing perception is so very great and his masterful demonstrations of the validity of his insight are revcaled so well in his prolific publications, that I find myself always sitting on the edge of my seat in anticipation of brilliant new revelations whenever "Tappy" presents his latest contribution.

That I am not alone in my enthusiasm for Doctor Taplin as an applier of nuclear energy in medicine without peer was supported by Dr. Monte Blau [Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo] in his address after dinner on 30 Oct 64 at the Symposium on Clinical Applications of Nuclear Medicine, in Cleveland.

I have no hesitancy in recommending the advancement of Doctor George V. Taplin to the highest academic rank at your institution. And I shall rejoice in such well-deserved recognition for him and in the opportunity it will provide him to benefit all of us even more in medical applications of The Peaceful Atom.

Most sincerely,

Wm. G. Myers M.D.

William G. Myers, Ph.D., M.D.
Biophysics Research Professor

WGM/wgm

Fifth Anniversary of the Symbol of The Society of Nuclear Medicine

William G. Myers

Historian, The Society of Nuclear Medicine
The Ohio State University Hospital, Columbus, Ohio

Editor's Note: ***For this 25th Annual Meeting Silver Anniversary issue of* The Journal of Nuclear Medicine, *the Historian of the Society traces the evolution of the Society's—and Journal's—symbol in its present form.***

J Nucl Med 19: 606, 1978

The symbol shown above first began to appear on the front cover of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* with the January 1973 issue. Ellis H. Myers was the artist who created it in the spring of 1972, while we were at The Donner Laboratory of Medical Physics at The University of California at Berkeley.

We designed the upper part of the symbol to represent carbon, the "organic" element that is central to biochemistry and which constitutes about 18% of the human body by weight and almost 10% of all the atoms in the body. Carbon has two K electrons and four L electrons, as depicted here in Bohr's orbital atomic model.

Carbon was chosen also for simplicity, since it has the lowest atomic number of any of our biochemical/physiological elements which can be "represented" by a $\pm\gamma$-nuclide. Carbon-11 can be detected in the intact patient by means of the two 511-keV $\pm\gamma$-rays, which are emitted at 180° to each other, and which almost always accompany the "annihilation" of positron-electron pairs. Thus, it lends itself to the "inside-out" methodology originated by Herrman L. Blumgart and his co-workers a half-century ago.

Carbon-11 now is coming to be used frequently as a radioindicator in nuclear medicine as more "medical/hospital" cyclotrons are becoming installed, and as elegant new instruments are evolving with which to locate the positions that "new" C-11 atoms take in patients by means of the inherent directionality achieved with the back-to-back $\pm\gamma$-ray pairs.

Historically, carbon-11 first was used for "inside-out" studies in man in 1945 at The Donner Laboratory by Tobias, Lawrence, Roughton, Root, and Gregersen (*1*), who used Geiger-Müller tubes to detect the $\pm\gamma$-rays that squirted out of various parts of their bodies after they had inhaled C-11 carbon monoxide.

The lower part of the symbol is The Staff of Aesculapius, the god of medicine, which has been used as the symbol of medicine since ancient times. To avoid any suggestion of sacrilegious violation of this sacred symbol with a surrounding clutter of electrons, these were placed above the staff to indicate that in nuclear medicine modern concepts of atomic structure rest upon the antiquity of the medicine that supports them.

In this way we strove to improve upon previous symbols used variously by The Society of Nuclear Medicine, in which three, four, or even five* electron orbits were depicted commonly as a sort of "halo" superposed on The Staff of Aesculapius. Thus, we avoided indicating that such unphysiological, and even noxiously toxic, elements such as lithium, beryllium, or boron should serve to symbolize the lore of nuclear medicine.

Received and accepted Sept. 12, 1977.

For reprints contact: William G. Myers, Dept. of Radiology, The Ohio State University Hospital, 410 West Tenth Ave., Columbus, OH 43210.

*On my Charter Member certificate of The Society of Nuclear Medicine there appears in the background an enormous Staff of Aesculapius with five electrons in orbits superposed upon it. The same symbol is centered in the seal in the lower left corner. This certificate is dated "This 30th day of May, 1954" and it bears the signatures of Thomas Carlile, the first President, and of Rex L. Huff, the first Secretary.

REFERENCE

1. TOBIAS CA, LAWRENCE JH, ROUGHTON FJW, ROOT WS, GREGERSEN MI: The elimination of carbon monoxide from the human body with reference to the possible conversion of CO to CO_2. *Am J Physiol* 145: 253–263, 1945